



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Guatemala

### Agricultural Situation

### Rain Assessment

**2002**

Approved by:

**Frank Coolidge, Agricultural Counselor**

**U.S. Embassy, Guatemala**

Prepared by:

Douglas Ovalle, Agricultural Specialist

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**Report Highlights:** The overall rain season in Guatemala is expected to be slightly delayed due to the warming phase of "El Niño" phenomenon. In some regions strong showers have occurred but for much of the country including the highlands where many marginal farmers live rains have not begun.

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Includes PSD changes: Yes  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
Unscheduled Report  
Guatemala [GT1], GT

Reader should note that the following analysis is based on the research and information provided by INSIVUMEH (The Guatemalan Meteorological Institute) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food. Data is based in different meteorological techniques and criteria with the support of numeric models and other regional and global predictors.

The behavior of the temperature in the sea surface in the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean (Nino 3 Area), is currently in the phase of warming up followed the neutralization and normalization of the water after the phenomenon of "La Niña".

Experts expects for the rest of 2002 a decrease in storm activity in the Atlantic due to the phenomenon of "El Niño".

Meteorological experts with the assistance of local observations and behavioral and historical data in Northern Central America, have forecasted that the 2002 rainy season could be slightly delayed yet close to normal. There have been no major abnormalities in weather patterns which will lead to normal and/or delayed rains in the region due to the warming out process of the "El Niño" phenomenon. Rains have started in coastal to tropical areas which is an indication of more daily rains to follow.

Due to topography, climatic similarities between places, and the distribution in time and space of the phenomenon warm and cold which generates rains, experts chose to divide Guatemala into 7 areas or regions, to have a better understanding of climatological behavior.

The areas or regions are divided as follows: Coastal Plains in the Pacific, Higher Coastal Areas in the Pacific, Highlands and Central Area, Eastern Region, Northern Region, Caribbean Coast and Northern Plains.

Overall, rains have been forecast to begin in all regions between mid April to mid June. The first region to receive some showers the Pacific Coastal Areas and the last ones the Northern Plains. Normal volumes of rain are from 300 mm in the Highlands and Central Area to 1,400 mm in the Higher Coastal areas in the Pacific Ocean. Due to the warming phase of "El Niño" phenomenon all the regions are forecast to experience inferior volumes of rain in 2002. In addition, a decrease of rains during the rainy season called "Canícula" is expected in all the regions during the month of July.

#### Recent plantings and impact on crops

Almost in all the regions of Guatemala, the small farmers lacking irrigation systems (a high percentage of the rural population), start planting their regular crops (corn and beans) around the beginning of the rainy season (mid to the end of May), in order to take advantage of the first couple of showers. For 2002, it will be detrimental how late or delayed the first showers will come since farmers are already preparing their fields for planting. If rains arrive extremely delayed, the situation can be considered an emergency, given that the majority of the rural population depends on corn and beans to survive. In spite of earlier expectations of a drought situation in the region, if the conditions forecasted for Guatemala remain, crops will be normal or slightly affected.

The attached PSD and Trade Matrix screens for corn, beans, wheat and rice, provide the Post's estimates.

PSD Table						
Country	Guatemala					
Commodity	Corn				(1000 HA)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	2001	Preliminary	2002	Forecast	2003
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		07/2001		07/2002		07/2003
Area Harvested	835	590	620	620	0	650
Beginning Stocks	89	89	29	29	0	17
Production	1200	1050	1100	1100	0	1150
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Imports	550	500	550	550	0	600
Oct-Sep Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct-Sep Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	1839	1639	1679	1679	0	1767
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Exports	10	10	12	12	0	12
Oct-Sep Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Dom. Consumption	600	600	650	650	0	700
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	1750	1600	1650	1650	0	1700
Ending Stocks	79	29	17	17	0	55
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1839	1639	1679	1679	0	1767

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Corn		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	2001		2002
U.S.	450,000	U.S.	500,000
Others		Others	
Mexico	40,000	Mexico	50,000
Argentina	10,000		
Total for Others	50000		50000
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	500000		550000

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Corn		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Exports for:	2001		2002
U.S.		U.S.	
Others		Others	
El Salvador	10,000	El Salvador	12,000
Total for Others	10000		12000
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	10000		12000

PSD Table						
Country	Guatemala					
Commodity	Rice, Milled				(1000 HA)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	2001	Preliminary	2002	Forecast	2003
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2001		01/2002		01/2003
Area Harvested	13	13	14	14	0	15
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milled Production	22	22	23	23	0	24
Rough Production	33	33	35	35	0	37
MILLING RATE (.9999)	6571	6571	6571	6571	0	6571
TOTAL Imports	35	35	40	40	0	40
Jan-Dec Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-Dec Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	57	57	63	63	0	64
TOTAL Exports	1	1	1	1	0	1
Jan-Dec Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	56	56	62	62	0	63
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	57	57	63	63	0	64

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Rice, Milled		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	2001		2002
U.S.	35,000	U.S.	40,000
Others		Others	
Total for Others	0		0
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	35000		40000

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Rice, Milled		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Exports for:	2001		2002
U.S.		U.S.	
Others		Others	
Honduras	600	Honduras	600
El Salvador	400	El Salvador	400
Total for Others	1000		1000
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	1000		1000



PSD Table						
Country	Guatemala					
Commodity	Beans				(1000 HA)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	2001	Preliminary	2002	Forecast	2003
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2001		01/2001		01/2001
Area Harvested	125	125	130	130	0	135
Beginning Stocks	10	10	10	10	10	10
Production	87	87	91	91	0	96
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Imports	3	3	5	5	0	5
Jul-Jun Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-Jun Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	100	100	106	106	10	111
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Exports	1	1	3	3	0	3
Jul-Jun Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Dom. Consumption	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	89	89	93	93	0	98
Ending Stocks	10	10	10	10	0	10
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	100	100	106	106	0	111

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Beans		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	2001		2002
U.S.	1,300	U.S.	2,300
Others		Others	
Argentina	1,700	Argentina	2,700
Total for Others	1700		2700
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	3000		5000

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Beans		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Exports for:	2001		2002
U.S.		U.S.	
Others		Others	
El Salvador	600	El Salvador	2,000
Costa Rica	400	Costa Rica	1,000
Total for Others	1000		3000
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	1000		3000

PSD Table						
Country	Guatemala					
Commodity	Wheat				(1000 HA)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	2001	Preliminary	2002	Forecast	2003
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		12/2001		12/2002		12/2003
Area Harvested	3	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks	100	10	10	10	10	10
Production	5	1	1	1	0	1
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Imports	400	350	400	400	0	450
Jul-Jun Imports	400	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-Jun Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	505	361	411	411	10	461
TOTAL Mkt. Yr. Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-Jun Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Dom. Consumption	40	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	405	351	401	401	0	451
Ending Stocks	100	10	10	10	0	10
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	505	361	411	411	0	461

Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Guatemala		
Commodity	Wheat		
Time period	Jan-Dec	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	2001		2002
U.S.	70,000	U.S.	80,000
Others		Others	
Canada	280,000		320,000
Total for Others	280000		320000
Others not Listed			
Grand Total	350000		400000